

# Tradition & Discovery

## The Polanyi Society Periodical

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# The Polanyi Society

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## Preface

I am pleased that Professor John Polanyi gave *TAD* permission to publish in this issue a recently discovered unpublished lecture that Michael Polanyi gave as the seventh of an eight-lecture set in 1954 in Chicago. This just turned up as a wrongly dated document hidden away in the Karl Polanyi archives. It is a very readable and interesting lecture that reflects how Polanyi was beginning to pull together material in his Gifford Lectures as he worked on *Personal Knowledge*.

Also this issue includes two book discussions and an article by Charles Lowney that follows up on his essay in *TAD* 36:1 in the fall of 2009. Lowney's new essay continues his exploration of the bearing of Polanyi's ideas on moral philosophy; a third and final essay in the series will follow in a subsequent *TAD*. One book discussion here focuses on Theodore L. Brown's *Imperfect Oracle*, a new book that treats the authority of science. Brown, a chemist by training, kindly responds to comments by Jay Labinger, also a scientist, and Richard Moodey, a sociologist. The second book discussion focuses on Phil Rolnick's *Person, Grace and God*. The conversation here is an expanded version of that held at a recent annual meeting and it includes comments by Andrew Grosso, Paul Lewis, and Paul Gavriluk and a response from Rolnick. There are also three short reviews of books, one on neuroscience and moral issues, one on the migration of Jewish-Hungarian professionals after World War I and the other on J.H. Oldham's discussion group "The Moot" in which Michael Polanyi participated.

Take a close look at the 2009 annual meeting program (p. 5) for Atlanta on October 30, which will feature two sets of graduate student papers. Also in News and Notes (pp. 3-4) is information about materials now on the web as well as bibliography of interest. The Society is plugging its new Speakers Bureau (p. 4) so please help with the effort to get some campus talks scheduled for the fall semester.

Phil Mullins

*Tradition and Discovery* is indexed selectively in *The Philosopher's Index* and *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and is included in the EBSCO online database of academic and research journals.

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# NEWS AND NOTES

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## University of Dayton Polanyi Materials

Roesche Library at the the University of Dayton has an interesting Special Collection of Polanyi materials. You can view the inventory at <http://library.udayton.edu/basics/archives/spcoll/colls/polanyi.php>. Brunno Manno was a faculty member at the University from 1977-80 and donated some materials. Michael Polanyi's last scholarly public presentation titled "From Science to Culture" was given at a conference at Dayton sponsored by the Consortium for Higher Education Religious Studies on the topic "Culture and Crisis: The Social Thought of Michael Polanyi." CHERS initiated a "Society for Explorers" which became The Polanyi Society. See Scott and Moleski's discussion in *Michael Polanyi, Scientist and Philosopher*, 280-281.

**Steven R. Brown and Richard Robyn**, "Reserving a Key Place for Reality: Philosophical Foundations of Theoretical Rotation," *Journal of the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity*, v.27 no. 3 (April 2004): 104-124.

Abstract: Factor rotation has been a controversial topic in the history of factor analysis, and preference has always been for a solution that is determinant, such as the simple-structure solution approximated by varimax. Stephenson's preference for judgmental rotation, available in Q methodology software packages such as QMethod and PCQ, is little used, due in part to lack of understanding of its philosophical bases in the writings of Egon Brunswik (psychological cues), J.R. Kantor (specificity), Charles S. Peirce (abductive logic), and Michael Polanyi (tacit knowledge). The philosophical justifications for theoretical rotation are summarized, and concrete examples are presented as illustrations designed to encourage acceptance and more widespread usage.

## The Travel Fund and 2010, "The Year of the Young Scholar"

**Walter Mead**

Members and friends of the Polanyi Society have a history of generously responding to appeals to shore up the Society's funds—whether the appeal has been for the general fund after a more-costly-than-anticipated conference, or for prepublication orders to encourage a publisher to re-issue an out-of-print book by Polanyi, or for rebuilding the Travel Fund to help young scholars to attend our meetings.

The Society has always managed to meet its needs through a combination of frugal operations and the generosity of supporters. In the works for consideration by some future Board, is a proposal to set up a more permanent endowment for the Society. This might allow a more regular stream of dollars to support particular Society projects.

We have not yet, however, reached this stage. I must once again make an ad hoc appeal for contributions to our Travel Fund, which is being substantially tapped to support the upcoming Atlanta program featuring papers by graduate students. I am happy to report that with contributions to the Society this year, it presently appears, the Travel Fund can be stretched to meet existing needs. However we will need immediately to replenish the fund for later needs. If you wish to donate directly to the Travel Fund this year, checks should be made out to the "Polanyi Society - Travel Fund" and mailed to **Walter Mead**, 4 Kenyon Court, Bloomington, IL 61701. For additional information, e-mail Mead ([wbmead@comcast.net](mailto:wbmead@comcast.net)). It is, of course, possible, when you next pay Society membership dues, to include a contribution that will go to the Travel Fund. Because the Polanyi Society is registered as a non-profit organization, contributions are tax-deductible.

## **Student Housing for Annual Meeting**

Some of the students who will be attending the Atlanta meeting (see p. 5) hope to minimize expenses by sharing costs on a room for two to three nights between Oct. 29 and 31. If you are rooming alone and are open to sharing, please contact Wally Mead and he'll put you in touch with an interested student. ([wbmead@ilstu.edu](mailto:wmead@ilstu.edu)).

## ***Appraisal***

The March 2010 (v.8, n. 1) issue of *Appraisal: The Journal of the Society for Post-Critical Philosophy and Personalist Studies* was recently published. The following articles are in the issue: (1) Eleanor Godway, "The Crisis of the Personal: Macmurray, Postmodernism and the Challenge of Philosophy Today"; (2) Tihamér Margitay, "Understanding and Being-in-the World in Polanyi's Philosophy of Knowing"; (3) Stefan Fothe, "Applying Polanyi's Concept of Tacit Knowing to Episodes of Intuitive Acting"; (4) Endre Nagy, "The Phenomenology of Conversion: the Conversions of Karl and Michael Polanyi"; (5) Norman Sheppard, "Michael Polanyi: the Importance of Personal Contributions in Science." Except for the first essay, these articles were papers from the Tenth International Conference on Persons. See the revamped *Appraisal* website at <http://www.spcps.org.uk/> for information on subscription and back issues.

## **Polanyi Society Speakers Bureau**

The Polanyi Society's new Speakers Bureau is now operational. Marty Moleski, S. J. and Richard Gelwick gave talks in February and March at Loyola University of Maryland and Yale University respectively. Discussions with a few other universities about future talks have occurred. If you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a talk, please send the name and e-mail address to Phil Mullins. There is now a link on the Polanyi Society web page with general information about the Speakers Bureau. You will find there a precis of the talks given by Moleski and Gelwick.

## **Addition to Polanyi Society Web Site Collection of Polanyi Materials**

Recently, Michael Polanyi's essay titled "The Body-Mind Relation," published in 1968, was added to the primary materials available for downloading from the Polanyi Society web site ( <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/essays.htm>). This essay was originally a paper given at a 1966 conference sponsored by the Western Behavioral Sciences Institute, the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences and the University of California, San Diego. This was the same conference at which the conversation between Polanyi and Carl Rogers occurred; this conversation is also available on the web site as an audio file and a text. There are now available on the Polanyi Society web site 10 Polanyi lectures, essays and letters plus links to 11 other Polanyi texts on other web sites. Some additional Polanyi materials will be added to the web site in the months ahead.

# 2010 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

The Polanyi Society will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the AAR, on October 30, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia. To attend the Polanyi Society annual meeting, it is not necessary to register for the AAR meeting. For additional information about the AAR meeting, go to [http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/default.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/default.asp). The hotels and rooms in which meeting sessions will be held will be assigned in the summer or early fall. The locations will be posted on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>) and in the October, 2010 *TAD*; they will also be available online and in print as Additional Meetings in the AAR materials. This year's two meeting sessions are projected to be on Saturday, October 30, the opening day of the AAR meeting rather than, as in recent years, on the Friday night and Saturday morning preceding the AAR meeting. If there are changes when final time assignments are made, these will be posted in the publications listed above.

This year's annual meeting program is devoted to six papers by graduate students. Neil Arner and Phil Rolnick have worked diligently to put together this set of papers from students studying at a variety of different institutions. Walter Mead also has and continues to work hard to raise dollars for the Travel Fund which will help support student travel to the annual meeting (see the note on p. 3). Papers for both sessions should be available for downloading from the Polanyi Society web page link for the annual meeting by late October.

## **Session I: 9 a.m. October 30, 2010 Chair: Neal Arner, Yale University**

David Agler, Pennsylvania State University

“Polanyi and Peirce on Doubt”

Aaron Crellor, University of Hawaii at Manoa

“The Epistemic Structures of Polanyi and Ryle”

Nancy Hutton, Harvard Divinity School

“Technologies of Intimacy as a Way of Knowing”

## **Session II: 7 p.m. October 30, 2010 Chair: Phil Rolnick, University of St. Thomas (MN)**

Neil Arner, Yale University

“Appraising Newbigin's Appropriation of Polanyi”

Kellen Plaxco, Marquette University

“From Polanyi to Origen and Back Again”

Mary Speckhard, Geneva College

“*Beyond Liberalism and Fundamentalism*, Toward Polanyi.”